REMARKS

Claims 8-15 and 17-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 18-19 are withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been entered.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 8-10, 12, 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Matsumoto (Machine English Translation of JP 2003-043257) in view of Yoshida (US 2001/0030726), as evidenced by Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,638,582).

As the Examiner admits, Matsumoto does not teach or suggest a laminated film of a polarizing film and a retardation film having a slow axis.

Although Yoshida discloses a laminated film, Yoshida does not teach or suggest, among other things, "wherein the polarizing film has an absorption axis in the TD direction, wherein the retardation film has a slow axis in the MD direction, wherein the length in the MD direction of each of the polarizing film and the retardation film is not smaller than five times as long as the length in the TD direction of each of the polarizing film and retardation film, and wherein the polarizing film is produced by stretching the first long polymer film in the TD direction and shrinking the first long polymer film in the MD direction," as recited in claim 8.

Uchiyama simply discloses a retardation film but fails to discuss the relationship between the retardation film and a polarizing film. Uchiyama describes that "the attachment step is carried out after cutting to the desired size, and there is a reduction in cutting yield while it is

essentially impossible to attach the two films continuously in a roll-to-roll manner." (Col. 2, lines 10-13). Uchiyama also describes as follows:

> In such cases, since both are laminated with their stretching axes parallel, if both of the films have been fabricated by longitudinal uniaxial stretching, for example, it is possible to carry out the attachment step in a roll-to-roll manner, which is highly advantageous from the standpoint of productivity. When fabricating a wide-band λ/4 film with such a combination, a film with a smaller retardation at shorter wavelengths may be used for retardation wavelength dispersion of a retardation film with a positive retardation value, for example.

(Uchiyama, col. 15, lines 5-13).

According to above descriptions of Uchiyama, long films cannot be practically attached before stretching, and the long films can be attached in a case that the long film is stretched in the MD direction.

On the other hand, Matsumoto discloses that long films are attached in a case that the long films are stretched in the TD direction.

According to the above, if the retardation film of Uchiyama were attached to the polarizing film of Matsumoto, the retardation film of Uchiyama would not function to result in the desired effect.

Thus, there is no reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the film of Uchiyama and that of Matsumoto.

For at least these reasons, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over Matsumoto, Yoshida, and Uchiyama. Claims 9, 10, 12, and 17, depending from claim 8, also, patentably distinguish over Matsumoto, Yoshida, and Uchiyama for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8, 11, 13-15, 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Matsumoto (Machine English Translation of JP 2003-043257) in view of Abileah (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,378), as evidenced by Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,638,582).

Regarding the absorption axis of the polarizing film and the slow axis of the retardation film, the Examiner alleged as follows:

> Abileah teaches that a retardation film is provided in a laminated film comprising the polarizing film, outside of a liquid crystal cell (polarizer 1, retardation film 3, liquid crystal layer 5, column 33, lines 1-10, Fig. 41) of a liquid crystal display (column 32, lines 62-65), for the purpose of obtaining improved contrast ratios for the display (column 33, lines 30-35). Abileah teaches that the retardation film has a slow axis, or axis of retardation that is parallel to the transmission axis of the polarizing film (optical axis of each retardation film is oriented substantially parallel to the adjacent polarizer transmission axis, column 32, lines 39-42) which means that the slow axis of the retardation film is perpendicular to the absorption axis of the polarizing film.

(Office Action, page 8, lines 7-15). The Examiner's allegation based on Matsumoto, Abileah and Uchiyama is similar to the rejection based on Matsumoto, Yoshida and Uchiyama.

Like Yoshida, Abileah does not teach or suggest, among other things, "wherein the polarizing film has an absorption axis in the TD direction, wherein the retardation film has a slow axis in the MD direction, wherein the length in the MD direction of each of the polarizing film and the retardation film is not smaller than five times as long as the length in the TD direction of each of the polarizing film and retardation film, and wherein the polarizing film is produced by stretching the first long polymer film in the TD direction and shrinking the first long polymer film in the MD direction."

For at least the same reasons as discussed above regarding Matsumoto, Yoshida and Uchiyama, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over Matsumoto, Abileah, and Uchiyama. Claims 9,

10, 12, and 17, depending from claim 8, also, patentably distinguish over Matsumoto, Abileah, and Uchiyama for at least the same reasons.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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